

MINUTES

TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Development Committee

September 19, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Health Related Boards' Iris Room, 227 French Landing, Ground Floor, Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Charles White. Other members present were: Drs. Mitchell Mutter, Subhi Ali, Dennis Higdon and Regine Webster.

Staff present included Rosemarie Otto, Executive Director, Larry Arnold, MD, Medical Director, Marsha Arnold, Unit Manager, Board Administrator and Andrea Huddleston, Deputy General Counsel and Advisory Attorney.

Other Members Present: Keith Lovelady MD

Minutes

Ms. Huddleston provided a working draft of a proposed rule relative to international medical schools. Members of the Committee discussed the challenges associated with licensing physicians from schools whose medical school curriculum does not meet or exceed the LCME approval standards. The Committee discussed the need for a minimum requirement that applicants for the non-LCME approved schools must take the MCAT as a pre-requisite for licensure. Ms. Huddleston addressed the issue of using the so-called "California List" because California actually has investigated the program and "approved" or "disapproved" them. The Committee was made aware of the action pending in Arkansas about their use of the "California List." The Committee reminded Ms. Huddleston that the Board has been using criteria like an applicant's board certification status, their performance on the USMLE and their response to questions during an interview to determine their fitness for licensure. Ms. Huddleston discussed the value of a rule versus consistency in use of a policy. Both are viable options. The Committee reiterated its view that the burden is on the applicant to show that their education is sufficient to enable the Board to approve their application for licensure. The Committee also discussed and acknowledged the dilemma for those applicants who need a license prior to sitting for their board examination. The Committee did not fashion a solution to this problem. The Committee finished reviewing the proposed draft rule for Ms. Huddleston so she could revise it and present it to the full board. The finished rule would include passage of each leg of the USMLE on the first attempt, attaining board certification and appearing before the Board for an interview. The rule would therefore be consistent with the current practice of the Board.

Ms. Huddleston then went on to address the so-called one point rule. Dr. Arnold recommended that the Board eliminate it entirely since the Board has displayed a reluctance to enforce it. The Committee discussed the fact that other states have legal authority to limit the number of attempts. The Committee discussed the number of attempts that would be appropriate. Dr. Higdon made a motion to limit the attempts to three attempts on each step. Dr. Ali seconded the motion. The

motion passed. The Committee will make this recommendation to the full Board. Ms. Huddleston said she would look into whether or not Tennessee has the same legal option. The Committee expressed its view that the seven year rule remain in tact.

The Committee adjourned at 7:15 p.m.